

Summary of Agreement from Probation/DMH/ACHSA Meeting  
Re RFI to Utilize Probation IV-E Waiver Reinvestment Funds for Aftercare Services

- 1) Project – DMH will issue an RFI for mental health agencies interested in delivering aftercare services for youth transitioning from Probation residential placement to their home communities. Probation will enter into an MOU with DMH to issue the RFI utilizing \$400,000 in Probation IV-E Waiver savings, which must be spent by June 30, 2013. [Probation will allocate whatever amount of the \$400,000 that can be spent in FY 2011/12 to the current fiscal year, with the remainder allocated to FY 2011/12.] Half of the \$400,000 will be utilized for indigent youth ineligible for Medi-Cal, and the other half will be utilized as a match for EPSDT eligible youth.
- 2) Target Population – Youth with mental health needs transitioning from residential placement to their home communities, including but not limited to those with co-occurring disorders, traumatized youth, and sex offenders. Not included would be youth enrolled directly into an alternative program upon discharge, such as FSP or wraparound.
- 3) Agency Eligibility – An agency, to be eligible to receive aftercare services funding, must submit a Statement of Interest which shows that it meets the specified qualifications to deliver aftercare services, as follows:
  1. The agency accepts Group Home placements from LA County Probation.
  2. The agency has the immediate capacity to deliver community based aftercare services for youth transitioning from their residential placement to their home communities, wherever that may be countywide.
  3. The agency has experience in capturing outcomes data and agrees to evaluate the outcomes below for each youth participating in this project.
  4. The agency is in good standing with LA County Probation.
  5. The agency has a County DMH contract.
- 4) Defined Scope of Services – The following services are to be offered by the participating agencies to youth who leave their residential placement, and their families, for up to a period of six months, as needed:
  1. Individual and family case management.
  2. Individual and family counseling.
  3. Linkage to necessary community-based resources, including medication management.
  4. Assessment of educational goals and assistance in pursuing them.
  5. Assistance in identifying legitimate employment.
  6. Enhancement of independent living skills.

In addition, the participating agencies will be required to participate in the Probation MDT Process for eligible youth.

- 5) Funding Allocation – Funds will be allocated to eligible agencies based on the number of eligible Probation youth within each agency. The RFI will request that each interested eligible agency identify the number of eligible Probation youth within their agency. Based on this information, Probation will determine the total number of eligible youth countywide, and then will allocate funding to each eligible agency based on that agency's percentage of total eligible Probation youth countywide.
- 6) Outcomes – It is expected that youths' participation in the aftercare program would result in the following outcomes promoting self-sufficiency six months after a youth's leaving residential placement:
  1. No further Probation violations
  2. No further need for residential placement
  3. Attendance in school or gainful employment
  4. Linkage to appropriate community-based services to enhance the youth's well-being
  5. Improved family functioning
- 7) Next Steps – The following are the remaining activities required to complete the project, with their accompanying anticipated timelines:
  1. DMH to draft RFI – By January 13, 2012
  2. Review of RFI by County Counsel – By February 10, 2012
  3. DMH issues RFI – By February 13, 2012
  4. RFI responses due – By February 27, 2012
  5. Probation and DMH review responses, make selections, and determine allocations – By March 9, 2012
  6. DMH issues contracts/amendments for agencies to begin project
    - a. Under delegated authority – By May 1, 2012
    - b. Without delegated authority – By July 1, 2012



1736 Family Crisis Center  
Alcott Center for Mental Health Services  
Alma Family Services  
Almansor Center  
Amanecer Community Counseling Service  
A.P.C.T.C./S.S.G.  
AspiraNet  
Aviva Family & Children's Services  
Barbour/Floyd Partners  
Bienvenidos Children's Center  
BRIDGES, Inc.  
Center for Aging Resources  
Child & Family Center  
Child & Family Guidance Center  
ChildNet Youth & Family Services  
Children's Bureau of Southern California  
Children's Hospital of Los Angeles  
Children's Institute, Inc.  
Community Family Guidance Center  
Concept 7 Fam. Support & Treatment Ctr.  
Counseling4Kids, Inc.  
D'Veal Family & Youth Services  
David & Margaret Home, Inc.  
Didi Hirsch C.M.H.C.  
Dubnoff Center  
Eisner Pediatric & Family Medical Center  
ENKI Health & Research Systems  
Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services  
Exceptional Children's Foundation  
Exodus Foundation  
Families Uniting Families  
Five Acres  
Foothill Family Service  
For The Child  
Gateways Hospital & M.H.C.  
The Guidance Center, Inc.  
Hathaway-Sycamores Child & Family Svcs.  
Health Research Assoc./USC S.H.  
The Help Group  
Hillside  
Hillview M.H.C.  
Hollygrove - An EMQ Agency  
Homes for Life Foundation  
Inst. For Multicul. Couns. & Ed. Svcs.  
Jewish Family Services of Los Angeles  
Junior Blind of America  
Kedren C.M.H.C.  
Koreatown Youth & Community Ctr.  
LeRoy Haynes Center  
Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic  
LA Gay & Lesbian Comm. Svcs. Ctr.  
Maryvale  
Masada Homes  
McKinley Children's Center  
Mental Health America of Los Angeles  
Olive Crest Treatment Centers  
Optimist Youth Homes & Family Svcs.  
Pacific Clinics  
Pacific Lodge Youth Services  
Para Los Niños  
Penny Lane Centers  
Phoenix House  
Prototypes/I-CAN  
Rosemary Children's Services  
San Fernando Valley C.M.H.C., Inc.  
San Gabriel Children's Center, Inc.  
Social Model Recovery Systems  
S.C.H.A.R.P.  
So. Cal. Foster Family/Adoption Agency  
SPIRITT Family Services  
St. Anne's  
St. John's Child & Family Dev. Center  
St. Joseph Center  
Star View Children & Family Services  
Step Up on Second  
Tarzana Treatment Centers  
Tessie Cleveland Comm. Svcs. Corp.  
Tobinworld  
Trinity Youth Services  
Verdugo Mental Health  
The Village Family Services  
VIP C.M.H.C., Inc.  
Vista Del Mar Child & Family Services  
Westside Children's Center  
The Whole Child  
WISE & Healthy Aging  
Youth Services Network

December 12, 2011

Honorable Zev Yaroslavsky, Chair  
Honorable Gloria Molina  
Honorable Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Honorable Don Knabe  
Honorable Mike Antonovich  
Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Importance of Aftercare Services for Los Angeles County Foster and Probation Youth/Support for Board Agenda Item 12

Dear Supervisors:

We wish to bring to your attention an issue of great importance to the future success of Los Angeles County's foster and probation youth. For many years now legitimate concerns have been expressed about the outcomes of foster and probation youth after their leaving the County's child welfare and juvenile justice systems. A report recently published by the Hilton Foundation highlights those concerns. Fortunately, however, there is hope for a very positive future, based on the investment of necessary resources into the delivery of aftercare services for our foster and probation youth transitioning out of our care and back into their home communities.

As you are probably aware, the Hilton Foundation recently published a report prepared by the University of Pennsylvania, in collaboration with the CEO's Research and Evaluation Services Unit, which looked at young adult outcomes of Los Angeles County foster and probation youth up to seven years after they had exited the system. Perhaps not surprisingly, they found that these youth faced significant challenges in the areas of economic security, education, employment, and housing. Sadly, criminal justice costs accounted for the largest share of average public costs in adulthood, 40% for former foster youth, 60% for crossover youth, and 70% for probation.

Fortunately, the Hilton Foundation report concluded with some very positive and constructive recommendations. Among those, was a recommendation of targeting the highest cost youth and providing them with coordinated care and case management, along with supportive services in the areas in which they have faced the most significant challenges, which was determined to *facilitate better outcomes and generate net cost savings*.



Today, foster and probation youth leaving our care are only able to get sporadic support in terms of aftercare services, often dependent on the fundraising capabilities of individual agencies, who must utilize those resources for a multitude of other purposes as well. When questions get raised as to the outcomes for youth a number of years after they have left our agencies' care, the fact that our agencies normally have no control over what happens to those youth during the intervening time after exiting our care is pretty much ignored. More importantly, were aftercare services to be funded for a period of time after all foster and probation youth left our care, all of the positive gains made during their time in care could be reinforced and translated to their daily lives, and their families' lives, as the youth transition back into their home communities.

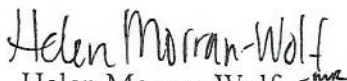
This is what ACHSA was thinking when we approached Probation several months ago about including an aftercare program into their IV-E Waiver savings proposal. We are very grateful to Probation that they agreed to include this pilot program into their proposal, which has been incorporated into the Board motion before you tomorrow in Agenda Item number 12. While the \$200,000 per year allocation is certainly limited in terms of the number of youth we will be able to serve, we believe that it is a very important first step in moving the aftercare concept forward. We sincerely hope that this issue takes hold just like the issue of comprehensive assessments for foster youth did in the form of the MAT program, which since it began as a pilot program over eight years ago has significantly changed the foster care system and improved the lives of thousands of foster youth.


Our long term hope would be that the County would take the position that every foster and probation youth exiting care be automatically entitled to six months of aftercare. In fairness to those youth, a significant portion of the Title IV-E Waiver savings over the past 4 to 5 years has been generated as a result of the shorter lengths of stay being offered to them, even though they really have not seen any major benefit from those savings, which have been directly primarily into youth on the front end. As important as those front end services are, we firmly believe that it is past the time to begin reinvesting a significant portion of those savings back into aftercare services for those youth who have helped to generate the savings in the first place. Accordingly, aftercare should be the "new frontier" for resource allocation over the next five to ten years.

As always, we greatly appreciate your ongoing support for our public/private collaboration, and we look forward to working closely with the County in the future to help ensure the success of our collective efforts.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

  
Helen Morran-Wolf  
President

  
Bruce Saltzer  
Executive Director

c: Child Welfare Deputies  
Juvenile Justice Deputies  
Bill Fujioka  
Philip Browning  
Jerry Powers  
ACHSA Board of Directors